Corrected Section of the Non-Compliant Amendment: Amendments to the Claims

Submitted in Response to the Examiner's Objection to the Amendment filed on September 20, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. **(Original)** A method of assessing whether a patient is afflicted with cervical cancer or has a pre-malignant condition, the method comprising comparing:

a) the level of expression of a marker in a patient sample, wherein the marker is selected from the group consisting of the markers listed in Table 1, and

b) the level of expression of the marker in a normal control cervical cancer sample,

wherein a significant difference between the level of expression of the marker in the patient sample and the normal level is an indication that the patient is afflicted with cervical cancer or has a pre-malignant condition.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the patient has cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) or squamous intraepithelial lesion (SIL).

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the marker corresponds to a secreted protein.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the marker corresponds to a transcribed polynucleotide or portion thereof, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the marker.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the sample comprises cells obtained from the patient.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the sample is a cervical smear.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the cells are in a fluid selected from the group consisting of a fluid collected by peritoneal rinsing, a fluid collected by uterine rinsing, a uterine fluid, a uterine exudate, a pleural fluid, a cystic fluid, and an cervical exudate.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the level of expression of the marker in the sample is assessed by detecting the presence in the sample of a protein corresponding to the marker.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 8, wherein the presence of the protein is detected using a reagent which specifically binds with the protein.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the reagent is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antibody derivative, and an antibody fragment.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein the level of expression of the marker in the sample is assessed by detecting the presence in the sample of a transcribed polynucleotide or portion thereof, wherein the transcribed polynucleotide comprises the marker.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 11, wherein the transcribed polynucleotide is an mRNA.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 11, wherein the transcribed polynucleotide is a cDNA.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 11, wherein the step of detecting further comprises amplifying the transcribed polynucleotide.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein the level of expression of the marker in the sample is assessed by detecting the presence in the sample of a transcribed polynucleotide which anneals with the marker or anneals with a portion of a polynucleotide wherein the polynucleotide comprises the marker, under stringent hybridization conditions.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the level of expression of the marker in the sample differs from the normal level of expression of the marker in a patient not afflicted with cervical cancer by a factor of at least about 2.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the level of expression of the marker in the sample differs from the normal level of expression of the marker in a patient not afflicted with cervical cancer by a factor of at least about 5.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, comprising comparing:

a) the level of expression in the sample of each of a plurality of markers independently selected from the markers listed in Table 1, and

b) the level of expression of each of the plurality of markers in samples of the same type obtained from normal control human cervical samples,

wherein the level of expression of more than one of the markers is significantly altered, relative to the corresponding normal levels of expression of the markers, is an indication that the patient is afflicted with cervical cancer or a pre-malignant condition.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 18, wherein the level of expression of each of the markers is significantly altered, relative to the corresponding normal levels of expression of the markers, is an indication that the patient is afflicted with cervical cancer.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 18, wherein the plurality comprises at least three of the markers.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 18, wherein the plurality comprises at least five of the markers.

22-48. **(Cancelled)**

49. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the cervical cancer is adenocarcinoma.

50. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the cervical cancer is squamous cell carcinoma.

51. **(New)** The method of claim 5, wherein the sample comprises an adenocarcinoma cell.

52. **(New)** The method of claim 5, wherein the sample comprises a squamous cell.

53. **(New)** The method of claim 51, wherein the level of expression of the marker in the adenocarcinoma cell differs from the normal level of expression of the marker in a patient not afflicted with cervical cancer by a factor of at least about 2.

54. **(New)** The method of claim 52, wherein the level of expression of the marker in the squamous cell differs from the normal level of expression of the marker in a patient not afflicted with cervical cancer by a factor of at least about 2.

55. **(New)** A kit for performing the method of claim 1, the kit comprising reagents for assessing expression of a marker selected from the group consisting of the markers listed in Table 1.